

Dear Public Health Committee:

I am writing in regard to proposed Bill No. 5299 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF ANTIEPILEPTIC MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS which would facilitate prompt medicinal response to an epileptic seizure to certain children attending public and nonpublic schools in the event that a qualified school nurse is not present to administer the required medication in a timely manner by authorizing a trained unlicensed surrogate to administer the medication.

The passage of this bill is of utmost importance to my friends Jim and Victoria Ross, and my Godson Emmett Ross who suffers from epileptic seizures on a regular basis and is at high risk of having a seizure at school or on the bus when a nurse is not present. The administration of antiepileptic medications to Emmett by trained teachers and aides, in the absence of a nurse, is very much like administering other highly accepted lifesaving techniques such as CPR, the Heimlich Maneuver, automatic defibrillation and an EpiPen injection.

While babysitting at the age of 14, I twice saved a child from choking using the Heimlich Maneuver, a technique I learned in an elective gym class in high school. I was very grateful I knew exactly what to do to save his life. I'm quite sure that the teachers and aides who work with Emmett will also be grateful to know how to administer his medication and save his life.

It will be very difficult for me to understand any objections to the passage of this lifesaving bill. For the sake of my Godson and other children suffering from epileptic seizures, please pass Bill No. 5299.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

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